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NEWS RELEASE

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May 20, 1999

Contact: Phil McCreedy, Montana World Trade Center, (406) 243-6983.

MONTANA WORLD TRADE CENTER RECEIVES \$6,000 GRANT MISSOULA—

The Montana World Trade Center, based at The University of Montana, has received a \$6,000 grant to establish relations with trade and environmental officials in Panama.

The U.S. Trade and Development Agency grant will be used to bring the Panamanian Minister of Commerce and the Minister of Environment to Montana this summer. During the visit Panamanian officials will have opportunities to meet with Montana leaders and environmental companies.

MWTC, through its Environmental Consortium, is in discussions regarding a \$30 million Inter-American Development Bank funded project, which is designed to help Panama develop its mining industry. The Environmental Consortium is a partnership among UM, Montana Tech of UM, MWTC and Montana's private environmental service providers. The consortium was formed to pursue environmental consulting contracts for Montana companies.

"Montana's environmental companies are among the best and most competent in the world," said Arnold Sherman, MWTC executive director. "This grant award will help further our efforts to pursue large consulting contracts with developing countries, like Panama, that will benefit immensely from the experience and expertise of our companies."

For more information, contact MWTC's Phil McCreedy at (406) 243-6983.

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